

December 4, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the father of Hudson Proctor, a first grader at Detroit Prep, as well as the Treasurer of the Family Board at the school. I am writing you to in support of **Bill SB 702**.

This Bill, which would allow Detroit Prep to purchase and restore the abandoned Anna Joyce Elementary school, is critical to our family's ability to provide our son with an exceptional education while living in the City of Detroit. I am also confident that the residents of Pingree Park and the surrounding neighborhoods would celebrate this decision that would provide them with a thriving school in their neighborhood instead of an abandoned building.. Buildings that were built and supported by taxpayer's money should continue to serve and be a positive light to our neighborhoods and used for public purposes. I believe that SB 702 accomplishes this.

SB 702 would allow abandoned buildings that are currently an eyesore to communities, a drain on property values, and a magnet for crime, to be used for things that the surrounding neighborhood can be proud of and things that can attract more families to a neighborhood or city. If Bill SB 702 is passed, Detroit Prep will be able to purchase Anna Joyce Elementary, which will not only provide a permanent school home for Detroit Prep, one of the highest performing schools in the city, but will turn a current source of blight for the Pingree Park neighborhood into a hub for the community. A school that many of its' residents once attended will flourish once again.

**Passing SB 702 is critical to Detroit's revitalization.** When schools close, neighborhoods are destabilized. If schools are allowed to open again within the buildings, neighborhoods can again begin to gain residents and return as vibrant spaces for all people.

Feel free to reach out to me if I can answer any questions or give you any more details on why I feel that passing SB 702 is so important to our city.

Best,  
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